



The Secretary for Health Services
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
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PAUL E. PATTON
GOVERNOR

MARCIA R. MORGAN
SECRETARY

January 8, 2002

ARNP LETTER #A-72

Dear Provider:

In recent months, the Department has received a number of inquiries from nurse practitioners regarding program policy cited in 907 KAR 1:102 which references limits on the number of visits a Medicaid recipient may have with an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) who has a specialty certification in psychiatric care. In response to these concerns, this letter clarifies our current position on this issue.

Kentucky Medicaid policy has traditionally stated that payment for a psychiatric service provided by a physician, with the exception of a psychiatrist, or ARNP, is limited to four (4) per recipient per year. This policy has been in effect for ARNP provider category since May 3, 1991 before psychiatric care was recognized as a specialty certification for nurse practitioners.

As standards of best medical practice are revised, Kentucky Medicaid attempts to review and revise program policy accordingly. During the past fiscal year, we have examined the possibility of removing the four-visit-per-year limit on a psychiatric service provided by a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. An analysis of all data has led us to conclude that a policy change at this time is not viable due to the potential for increased costs should these limits be lifted.

"...promoting and safeguarding the health and wellness of all Kentuckians."



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As you may be aware, the Department is faced with severe budget constraints at this time. At present, our most pressing mission is to work within these constraints without reducing or eliminating coverage groups or services. In the event additional funding is made available to the Program, we hope to reexamine this issue in the future.

I appreciate the service that you provide to Medicaid recipients and certainly hope we can continue to work in partnership with you to serve the health care needs of this vulnerable group of citizens. If you have further questions regarding this letter, please contact Mike Robinson, Commissioner of the Department for Medicaid Services, 502-564-4321.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'm r m', with a large loop at the end.

Marcia R. Morgan
Secretary

MRM/CBJ/tp

Cc: Mike Robinson
Duane Dringenburg